IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10-32 and 42-59.

Please amend claims 1 and 33 in the following manner:

1. (Currently amended) A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition, the method comprising:

identifying a candidate therapeutic agent by screening one or more compounds to determine whether said compounds can modulate a CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction;

administering the candidate therapeutic agent to a test mammal; and

determining whether the level of a cholesterol indicator is modulated in said test mammal.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said candidate therapeutic agent is 5β-pregnan-3,20-dione.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated disorder or condition is selected from the group consisting of: hypercholesterolemia, lipid disorders, atherosclerosis, and cardiovascular disorders.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a cholesterol-elevated mammal.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the test mammal has a disruption in both CAR alleles.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the level of serum cholesterol.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and VLDL cholesterol.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said cholesterol indicator is the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said CAR-mediated intermolecular interaction is CAR-mediated gene expression.

10-32. Cancelled.

33. (Currently amended) A method for identifying a therapeutic agent for use in treating a constitutive androstane receptor (CAR)-mediated disorder or condition the method comprising:

administering a compound to a CAR compromised mammal; and

determining whether administration of the compound results in a change in cholesterol level compared to a mammal to which ~~the compound~~ is not administered.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the method further comprises administering the compound to a CAR non-compromised mammal and comparing the effect on the cholesterol level indicator of administering the compound to that of administering the compound to the CAR compromised mammal.

35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is the level of serum cholesterol.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is the level of a member selected from the group consisting of HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, and VLDL cholesterol.

37. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said cholesterol level indicator is the mRNA level of a gene involved in the regulation of cholesterol levels.

38. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said CAR compromised mammal is a mammal having a disruption in both CAR alleles.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said CAR compromised mammal is a mouse.

40. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption occurs in the coding region for the DNA binding domain of CAR.

41. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said disruption in a CAR allele comprises an insertion at codons for amino acid positions from about amino acid 21 to about amino acid 86 of CARβ.

42-59. Cancelled.